

What is claimed is:

1. A preparation for administration by intra yolk sac injection for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis in members of the class *Aves* comprising live, sporocysts of at least one species of coccidial protozoa and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, the preparation characterized by being substantially
5 free of extraneous bacterial, fungal and viral contaminants.
2. The preparation of claim 1, wherein at least 10% of the total coccidial protozoa in the preparation are sporocysts.
3. The preparation of claim 1, wherein the coccidial protozoa is of the order *Eucoccidiida*.
4. The preparation of claim 1, wherein the genus of the coccidial protozoa is *Eimeria*.
5. The preparation of claim 1, wherein the number of sporocysts per dose of each species of protozoa in the preparation is at least about 50.
6. The preparation of claim 1, wherein the number of sporocysts per dose of each species of protozoa in the preparation is at least about 1,000.
7. The preparation of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient further comprises at least one preservative.
8. The preparation of claim 1, further comprising at least one immune system stimulant.
9. The preparation of claim 1, further comprising at least one additional vaccine preparation for the prevention of a disease of birds.
10. The preparation of claim 1, further comprising at least one growth stimulant.

11. A preparation for administration by intra yolk sac injection for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis in members of the class *Aves* comprising live, sporulated oocysts of at least one species of coccidial protozoa which have been treated to disrupt the oocyst wall and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, the preparation characterized by being substantially free of extraneous bacterial, fungal and viral contaminants.
12. The preparation of claim 11, wherein the disruption of the oocyst wall is accomplished by a method chosen from the group consisting of mechanical disruption, chemical disruption and enzymatic disruption.
13. The preparation of claim 11, wherein at least 10% of the total coccidial protozoa in the preparation are sporocysts.
14. The preparation of claim 11, wherein the coccidial protozoa is of the order *Eucoccidiida*.
15. The preparation of claim 11, wherein the genus of the coccidial protozoa is *Eimeria*.
16. The preparation of claim 11, wherein the number of treated oocysts per dose of each species of protozoa in the preparation is at least about 50.
17. The preparation of claim 11, wherein the number of treated oocysts per dose of each species of protozoa in the preparation is at least about 1,000.
18. The preparation of claim 11, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient further comprises at least one preservative.
19. The preparation of claim 11, further comprising at least one immune system stimulant.

20. The preparation of claim 11, further comprising at least one additional vaccine preparation for the prevention of a disease of birds.
21. The preparation of claim 11, further comprising at least one growth stimulant.
22. A preparation for administration by intra yolk sac injection for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis in members of the class *Aves* comprising at least about 50 live, sporulated oocysts which have been treated to disrupt the oocyst wall from each of the species of coccidial protozoa *E. acervulina*, *E. maxima* and *E. tenella* and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, carrier, diluent, or excipient, the preparation characterized by being substantially free of extraneous bacterial, fungal and viral contaminants.
23. The preparation of claim 22, further comprising 30 µg/ml gentamicin.
24. The preparation of claim 22, wherein the coccidial protozoa are unattenuated.
25. A preparation for administration by intra yolk sac injection for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis in members of the class *Aves* comprising at least about 50 live sporocysts from each of the species of coccidial protozoa *E. acervulina*, *E. maxima* and *E. tenella* and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, carrier, diluent or excipient, the preparation characterized by being substantially free of extraneous bacterial, fungal and viral contaminants.
26. The preparation of claim 25, further comprising 30 µg/ml gentamicin.
27. The preparation of claim 25, wherein the protozoa are unattenuated.
28. A method for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis in members of the class *Aves* comprising administration by intra yolk sac injection to newly hatched chicks of a preparation comprising live, sporocysts of at least one species of coccidial protozoa.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein at least 10% of the total coccidial protozoa in the preparation are sporocysts.
30. The method of claim 28, wherein the coccidial protozoa is of the order *Eucoccidiida*.
31. The method of claim 28, wherein the genus of the coccidial protozoa is *Eimeria*.
32. The method of claim 28, wherein the number of sporocysts of each species of coccidial protozoa administered per dose is at least about 50.
33. The method of claim 28, wherein the number of sporocysts of each species of coccidial protozoa administered per dose is at least about 1,000.
34. The method of claim 28, wherein the preparation is administered in conjunction with at least one immune system stimulant.
35. The method of claim 28, wherein the preparation is administered in conjunction with at least one additional vaccine preparation for the prevention of a disease of birds.
36. The method of claim 28, wherein the preparation is administered in conjunction with at least one growth stimulant.
37. The method of claim 28, wherein the preparation is administered in conjunction with at least one anti coccidial drug.
38. A method for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis in members of the class *Aves* comprising administration by intra yolk sac injection to newly hatched chicks of a preparation comprising live, sporulated oocysts of at least one species of coccidial protozoa which have been treated to disrupt the oocyst wall.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the disruption of the oocyst wall is accomplished by a method chosen from the group consisting of mechanical disruption, chemical disruption and enzymatic disruption.
40. The method of claim 38, wherein at least 10% of the total coccidial protozoa in the preparation are sporocysts.
41. The method of claim 38, wherein the coccidial protozoa is of the order *Eucoccidiida*.
42. The method of claim 38, wherein the genus of the coccidial protozoa is *Eimeria*.
43. The method of claim 38, wherein the number of treated oocysts of each species of coccidial protozoa administered per dose is at least about 50.
44. The method of claims 38, wherein the number of treated oocysts of each species of coccidial protozoa administered per dose is at least about 1,000.
45. The method of claim 38, wherein the preparation is administered in conjunction with at least one immune system stimulant.
46. The method of claim 38, wherein the preparation is administered in conjunction with at least one additional vaccine preparation for the prevention of a disease of birds.
47. The method of claim 38, wherein the preparation is administered in conjunction with at least one growth stimulant.
48. The method of claim 38, wherein the preparation is administered in conjunction with at least one anti coccidial drug.

- 5 49. A method for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis in members of the class *Aves* comprising administration by intra yolk sac injection to newly hatched chicks of a preparation comprising at least about 50 live, sporulated oocysts of each of the coccidial protozoa *E. acervulina*, *E. maxima* and *E. tenella* which have been treated to disrupt the oocyst wall.
50. The method of claim 49, wherein the coccidial protozoa are unattenuated.
51. The method of claim 49, wherein the treated oocysts are administered within 48 hours of hatching.
52. A method for the prevention and treatment of coccidiosis in members of the class *Aves* comprising administration by intra yolk sac injection to newly hatched chicks of a preparation comprising at least about 50 live, sporocysts of each of the coccidial protozoa *E. acervulina*, *E. maxima* and *E. tenella*.
53. The method of claim 52, wherein the coccidial protozoa are unattenuated.
54. The method of claim 52, wherein the sporocysts are administered within 48 hours of hatching.